

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LAHONTAN REGION

BOARD ORDER NO. R6V-2002-053A1
WDID NO. 6B190107017

AMENDED WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
LOS ANGELES COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT NO. 14
LANCASTER WATER RECLAMATION PLANT

Los Angeles County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Regional Board) finds:

1. Waste Discharge Requirements

On September 11, 2002 the Regional Board adopted Board Order No. R6V-2002-053, that revised Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 14 (Discharger). The revised WDR established a deadline of August 25, 2005 for meeting ammonia toxicity receiving water limits in the Paiute Ponds system. The findings in the order state that the Regional Board recognized that the Water Quality Objective (WQO) in the Basin Plan for ammonia could not be immediately met, and that the WQO may not be appropriate for the beneficial uses of the receiving waters.

2. Reason for Amendment

The Discharger has proposed a *site-specific water quality objective* (SSO) for ammonia in Paiute Ponds. However, Regional Board staff, the Discharger and the Discharger's consultants need additional time to address comments received from the State's peer reviewers and determine if there is an SSO that is appropriate and what it should be. It is likely that an SSO will be recommended to the Board in the winter of 2005.

The Discharger has complied with Orders II.B.2.a and II.B.2.b of the WDR. However, it is apparent that the Discharger will not be able to comply by August 25, 2005 with Orders to achieve full compliance with either (a) any newly adopted SSO or (b) the Receiving Water Limitations for Ammonia that are specified in the existing WDR.

Since the Discharger has proposed an SSO, and it is likely that staff will recommend adoption of some form of an SSO within the year, the current language in Orders II.B.2.a.– e. needs to be amended to grant an extension of time to reflect the current schedule for potential adoption of an SSO.

A copy of the page (15) from the WDR that specified the time schedule for compliance with the ammonia toxicity WQO is attached for reference as Enclosure 2.

3. Interim Ammonia Limits

The Discharger has a “pH adjustment” facility under construction now that will reduce ammonia levels in the effluent. Because any SSO for ammonia in Paiute Ponds is not anticipated to be considered by the Regional Board for a period of months, it is necessary and appropriate to have interim ammonia limits established until the Regional Board can consider an SSO for ammonia.

The interim ammonia limits proposed in this amendment are based on what staff has determined the Discharger can achieve by operating a pH adjustment facility. The interim limits will also provide an increased level of protection for the current aquatic habitat of Paiute Ponds. The pH adjustment facility to achieve compliance with the interim ammonia limits will be operational by August 1, 2005.

4. California Environmental Quality Act Compliance (CEQA)

This updated Order applies to an ongoing discharge regulated under an existing Board Order. The continued operation of the existing facilities is therefore categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.) in accordance with Title 14, Section 15301 of the CCR.

5. Notification of Interested Parties

The Regional Board has notified the Discharger and interested persons of its intent to update WDRs for the discharge.

6. Consideration of Public Comments

The Regional Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

Provisions II.B.2.a.–e. (dealing with Ammonia Toxicity) on page 15 of Board Order No. R6V-2002-053 shall be replaced as indicated below. All other Findings, Discharge Specifications and Provisions of Board Order No. R6V-2002-053 remain in effect and unchanged.

II. PROVISIONS

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B. Schedules

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2. Ammonia Toxicity

a. Interim Ammonia Limits

By **August 25, 2005**, the Discharger is to achieve the following interim ammonia effluent limits (expressed as milligrams of ammonia (as nitrogen) per liter).

pH	Interim Ammonia Limit (mg/L as N)	pH	Interim Ammonia Limit (mg/L as N)	pH	Interim Ammonia Limit (mg/L as N)
6.5	126.95	7.4	59.73	8.3	12.26
6.6	121.79	7.5	51.71	8.4	10.09
6.7	115.87	7.6	44.28	8.5	8.33
6.8	109.19	7.7	37.55	8.6	6.89
6.9	101.81	7.8	31.56	8.7	5.73
7.0	93.84	7.9	26.34	8.8	4.80
7.1	85.44	8.0	21.86	8.9	4.04
7.2	76.80	8.1	18.07	9.0	3.44
7.3	68.16	8.2	14.89		

The interim ammonia limits shall remain in effect until such time as the Regional Board either: (a) adopts an SSO for ammonia in Paiute Ponds that would be more stringent than the interim limits, or (b) rejects a proposed SSO and establishes a final ammonia effluent limit based on the capacity and efficiency of new treatment facilities expected to be completed prior to January 1, 2009, provided the quality of the effluent meets Basin Plan standards.

b. Final Ammonia Limits

The Regional Board reserves the right to modify the compliance date to a date earlier than January 1, 2009 if the Regional Board adopts an SSO and finds that the Discharger can achieve compliance with it by making minor changes to the existing facilities. The new compliance date would provide adequate time needed to implement the minor changes.

c. Progress Reporting

The Discharger shall submit semi-annual reports on the effectiveness of the new pH adjustment treatment facilities to comply with the interim ammonia limits. The reports are due on **September 15** and **March 15** each year. The first progress report will be due to the Regional Board by **September 15, 2005**.

LACSD No. 14
LANCASTER WRP
Los Angeles County

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I, Harold J. Singer, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region, on July 13, 2005.

HAROLD J. SINGER
EXECUTIVE OFFICER